

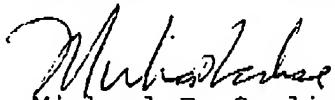
REMARKS

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9 and 11 to 17 are pending. No claims are allowed.

The examiner indicates that the present application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species of bone plates. In particular, the various species are: I Figure 1A; II, Figure 2; III, Figure 3; IV, Figure 4b; V, Figure 5a and VI, Figure 5c. In that respect, the Applicants elect species IV illustrated in Fig. 4b. Claims 1, 3, 5 to 7, 9 and 11 to 17 read on this species. Claims 2 and 8 are withdrawn from further consideration. This election is made without traverse.

A substantive examination on the merits of the pending claims is requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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